Iowa HSSCO Grant Year End Report October 2005- September 2006

The activities and accomplishments achieved during this program year are listed below under the appropriate objective and desired outcome.

OBJECTIVE ONE:

To support the Iowa Head Start agencies and the IHSA in their efforts to achieve desired program results and to meet and exceed the expectations of the Head Start Performance Standards and other Federal initiatives.

1. Desired Outcome: By providing a framework for building stronger Iowa early childhood services, better communication and information sharing about Head Start, and about federal and state initiatives, will be shared with key stakeholders, including Head Start programs and early childhood leaders.

FY06 Action Plans

- ◆ Continue to distribute (via email or other means) information, updates and activities on Head Start and early childhood services, policies and federal/state initiatives. This will include bi-monthly or quarterly reports.
- Explore new ways to help carry Iowa Head Start messages to key audiences. Those messages include:
 - Head Start offers comprehensive services for children.
 - 2. Head Start puts a priority on parent involvement.
 - 3. Head Start represents high quality.
 - 4. Head Start is a valuable partner in helping Iowa reach its vision for early childhood.
- Update and maintain a comprehensive database of Head Start programs and personnel in Iowa.

Program Year 05-06 Accomplishments

- Provided regular communication with grantees continued throughout the program year, including information about:
 - State and federal legislative and regulatory changes affecting early childhood
 - Training Opportunities
 - Health and Safety alerts affecting young children
 - Information, newsletters and updates from Early Childhood Iowa, Iowa Community Empowerment and Iowa AEYC and NAEYC
 - Grant opportunities
 - New national early childhood resources and research
 - Monthly reports from the Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office.
- ◆ Continuous updating and expanding of Iowa Head Start staff partners database.
- ◆ Developed and published a 2005 Yearbook in partnership with the Iowa Head Start Association. (Copies are available at <u>www.iowaheadstart.org</u>.) The report was sent to partners and major stakeholders in Iowa including legislative and government leaders.

- **2.** *Desired Outcome:* Strengthened partnerships between Head Start programs and other entities such as: child care, community empowerment, public schools, early childhood special education, public health, community action agencies, and FaDSS programs.
- + Partnerships are fostered at both the state and local level.
- + Stronger partnerships should result in more shared training, fewer barriers to collaboration and more opportunities to blend services across programs.

FY06 Action Plans

Iowa.

◆ Technical assistance and support will be offered to the Iowa Head Start Association to ensure its effective operation as a representative body of the Head Start programs in

- **Program Year 05-06 Accomplishments**
- ◆ Provided ongoing support to IHSA. This year IHSA reorganized and added new activities, and is positioning itself to hire new staff next year.
- ◆ Provided support and assistance to IHSA so it can offer a comprehensive training schedule including two one-day trainings, monthly networking sessions, and quarterly director networking sessions. This schedule was put into a brochure for the 2006-07 program year and disseminated among Head Start programs and early childhood partners.
- ◆ Facilitated the development of a joint IHSA/Iowa Community Action Association advocacy agenda that also coordinated with Every Child Counts, an Iowa-based early childhood advocacy network.
- ♦ Ensured that IHSA was involved in state organizations, boards, committees and activities including state pre-K discussions.
- ♦ Partnership Development with Child Care
 - Appointed as the Iowa Department of Education representative on the State Child Care Advisory Council (SCCAC); served on its executive committee.
 - Worked to address barriers to quality child care in Iowa. Work areas included: 1) Increase regulation to assure higher quality child care settings and require all to be registered; 2) Increase child care assistance reimbursement rates and increase number of child care providers willing to accept CCA subsidy children, 3) Establish broader understanding and agreement about what constitutes quality child care among EC field, parents and key stakeholder, 4) Fully implement Professional Development Plan (including revision of Core Body of Knowledge, training registry, wage incentives, etc.) (See more below under Objective 2, Desired Outcome 2.); 5) Address child care regulation and child care assistance red tape concerns. Strategies and action steps were identified.
 - Promoted opportunities for Head Start to provide feedback on Administrative Rules governing a new Iowa Quality Rating System (QRS), providing regular communication and updates about its implementation progress. The QRS launched in February 2006, and HSSCO has worked to promote participation by Head Start in the system.
 - Iowa's new Early Learning Standards (ELS) were approved and published this year. Iowa HSSCO distributed extra copies to the IHSA Board and to the director of each program. Iowa HSSCO also developed and distributed a document that shows the alignment between the ELS and the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework as well as their alignment with three common child assessment tools: High/Scope Child Observation Record, Creative Curriculum Continuum and Work Sampling.

- Partnership development and collaboration enhancement plans will be produced that include the following:
 - Child Care

Partnership with Child Care (continued)

- Pursued an agenda to increase number of Head Start programs receiving child care wrap-around grants to provide full day care for Head Start children. In 2006-07 grant year, total number of grants to Head Start increased 15 percent serving 20 percent more children (1881 children).
- Secured \$400,000 funding for a state-funded EHS pilot initiative. The project will be administered by the Collaboration Office and grant awards were made to three Head Start programs and one community based organization. Projects will begin in November, 2006.
- Through the SCCAC, supported expenditure of Quality and I/T earmarks that will fund many projects including PITC (Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers); T.E.A.C.H.; NAC (National Administrator Credential) training; the Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress, an Early Learning Standards conference; the Early Childhood Alliance (a collegium of community college early childhood programs), see Objective 3, Outcome 1; and professional development statewide systems development. These projects will all potentially benefit Head Start programs and children in the state. These projects will be funded beginning October 1, 2006.

- Community Empowerment

• Partnership Development with <u>Iowa Community Empowerment:</u>

- Collaboration with Iowa's 58 local Community Empowerment Areas (CEAs) continues to grow and the dramatic increases of program year 2003-04 are holding. Specifically, analysis of activities in 2004-05 show:
 - 21% (12 of 58) of CEAs were purchasing additional slots in Head Start preschools for over-income or wait-listed children (an increase of 1 CEA or 9% from 2003-04)
 - o 47% (27) of CEAs referenced Head Start data in their report (an increase of 2 CEAs or 8% from 2003-04)
 - o 47% (27) of CEAs provided a variety of services that supported Head Start children and families (e.g. transportation, literacy, referrals, staff training, oral health services, lead screening, etc.), (an increase of 3 CEAs or 13% from 2003-04)
 - o 10% (6) of CEAs provided funding to expand the Head Start day or year (an increase of 2 CEAs or 50% from 2003-04)
 - o 36% (21) of CEAs reported Head Start as a partner in area-wide collaborations for children (an increase of 2 CEAs or 5% from 2003-04)
 - o 10% (6) of CEAs launched or maintained a joint classroom with Head Start (an increase of 2 CEAs or 50% from 2004-05)
- Submitted Head Start articles in statewide Empowerment newsletters.
- Supported and mediated with miscellaneous local Empowerment/Head Start conversations and collaborations.
- Arranged for a meeting among Head Start Directors, Community Action Program Executive Directors and the Iowa Empowerment State Coordinator to discuss improving collaboration.
- Arranged for and made a presentation on Early Head Start for the Iowa Community Empowerment State Board.
- Supported Iowa Empowerment State Coordinator to attend a Head Start Fiscal and Program Management Seminar with Iowa Head Start programs.
- Developed a draft collaboration tool outlining models and requirements in collaboration with Head Start.

 Shared Visions and other Pre-K/Preschool

◆ Partnership Development with <u>Shared Visions and other Pre-</u> K/Preschool

- Participated in bi-monthly meetings of the Child Development Coordinating Council.
- Made several presentations and led discussion on Early Head Start as a model for 0-3 Shared Visions programs.
- Supported NAEYC accreditation policy development. NAEYC accreditation is required of all Shared Visions preschool programs.
- Helped coordinate two statewide joint training events between Head Start and Shared Visions on science instruction in the early childhood classroom and bilingual education.
- Secured the support of the Iowa Head Start Association for a new 4-year old preschool legislative offer. The offer was rejected but replaced with additional funding through Community Empowerment for preschool scholarships. Twenty percent of Community Empowerment Areas are using their preschool scholarship dollars to support Head Start children on waiting lists or area children who are over income.

- Public Schools

◆ Partnership Development with <u>Public Schools</u>

- Attended Early Childhood Network meetings, gatherings of the early childhood specialists at the state's Area Education Agencies.
- Worked on a comprehensive web-based database that will link LEAs with Head Start grantees.
- Arranged for the new Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Education to address the IHSA Council in February.

- ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) [Explore possibility of developing a new MOU.]

◆ Partnership Development with ECSE

- Worked on the Iowa Expanding Opportunities work team to secure Head Start support of new IDEA state plan.
- Developed a communications plan as part of new inclusion work and was invited to give a presentation at 2006 NECTAC conference.
- Co-presented on effective inclusion work at numerous conferences to promote full inclusion settings.
- Gathered and disseminated data to document how Head Start was supporting Iowa's Least Restrictive Environment goal. The 2006 PIR data show that the percentage of Head Start children with disabilities increased to 13% (up 2% from 2005). Ninety-six percent of children with disabilities have an IEPs or IFSPs (up 2% from 2005).
- Developed a PW-PBS (Program-Wide: Positive Behavior Supports) collaborative project to launch an early childhood version of PBS that coordinates with the School Wide PBS efforts currently progressing across the state. Eleven Head Start programs are participating in the first cohort of programs which formally began in September, 2006.

- Public Health

◆ Partnership Development with Public Health

- Launched and completed Healthy Smiles project (see Desired Result #4 for details).
- Met regularly with Child Health Advocacy Team at the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- Co-sponsored through IHSA early childhood health system symposium called "Off to a Good Start: Framing Policy for Early Childhood Health Systems Integration." Head Start showcased its contributions to child health. The symposium focused on six health goals from Iowa's early childhood systems development work. It generated a number of policy recommendations that led to successful legislative funding for efforts in oral health and mental health.

Partnership with Health (continued)

- Wrote letter in support of a continuing grant from the Centers for Disease Control to the Iowa Department of Public Health's Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention.
- Coordinated a Mental Health networking session to introduce programs to Iowa's ABCD II Healthy Mental Development Initiative and a new design for Iowa's mental health system.
- Contributed to the State Nutrition Action Plan, outlining a supportive role for Iowa Head Start programs and reporting on current activities to promote fruit and vegetable consumption and provide nutrition education to parents and children.
- Supported the development of a new Iowa-based maternal depression screen by the University of Iowa and encouraged Head Start programs to participate in an initial train the trainer rollout. Five trainers of the 23 participating are from Head Start or Community Action Agencies.
- Reported to programs the results of the IDPH's 2006 Public Sector Immunization Assessment and its School and Child Care audit reports.
 Overall, Head Start had a state rate of 97.9 percent compared with child care whose rate was 95 percent.
- Encouraged programs to apply for Child and Adult Care Food Programs Nutrition mini-grants.
- ◆ Partnership Development with <u>FaDSS</u> (Family Development and Self-Sufficiency). This TANF and state-funded program works with families to move off of welfare to self-sufficiency. Eleven of 18 FaDSS grantees also operate Head Start programs.
 - Organized two statewide networking session between FaDSS and Head Start family support workers. Discussion reflected on how better to cooperate around training, share information and collaborate on family support work. Discussion also focused on new Iowa recommendations on research-based practices in family support programs and how FaDSS and Head Start programs were addressing issues like program model fidelity, staff, and program model monitoring. Participants developed joint action plans to support broader collaboration.
 - Served as chair of the FaDSS Council and continued to serve as the Department of Education representative.
- ◆ Partnership Development with Community Action Agencies
 - Provided on-site support for management enhancement to two CAP agencies.
 - Supported the development of a statewide poverty report to be released in November 2006.
 - Arranged for a meeting between CAP directors and Head Start Directors (also with Iowa Community Empowerment State Coordinator).
 - Facilitated the development of a joint advocacy position statement between ICAA (Iowa Community Action Association) and IHSA.
 - Met several times with new ICAA executive director.
 - Launched a new Resource Bank to facilitate expertise sharing among CAP agencies.
 - Co-presented at the Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress with ICAA representative on poverty and early childhood.
- ◆ In conjunction with the Department of Education's Early Learning Work Team, released new Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). Iowa HSSCO supported implementation by developing a monitoring process, promoting

- FaDSS [Implement plan based on survey.]

- CAAs [Build on/support projects from previous year's supplemental grant]
- ♦ Work with Iowa
 Department of
 Education's (DE)
 Early Learning Work
 Team to implement
 recently developed
 Iowa Quality
 Preschool Program
 Standards (QPPS)
 within LEAs.

	Department of Education (continued)
	continuity between these standards and NAEYC accreditation and informing Iowa Head Start programs about its development, release and implementation. At least three Head Start sites participated during the 2005-06 program year in the QPPS self-study efforts. Participation has been encouraged because it allows Head Start agencies to be active in local collaboration initiatives around quality and to access funding and training opportunities.
•	Worked on collaborative ties between state efforts to support
	QPPS implementation in local program and the Iowa AEYC
	Accreditation Facilitation project.

3. Desired Outcome: The HSSCO Management Team will be stronger and provide guidance and support to the work of the Iowa HSSCO.

FY06 Action Plans	Program Year 05-06 Accomplishments	
◆ HSSCO Team will advise and	◆ Represented the Team on the Early Childhood	
approve the 2006 plan.	Coordinated Leadership work (for more information see	
◆ The work of Iowa HSSCO	Objective 3, Desired Outcome 1).	
will be monitored and assessed based on predetermined outcome measures.	◆ Assessment and monitoring have been moved to work in the coming year on the new 5-year HSSCO grant application.	

4. Desired Outcome: Support IHSA and the Head Start TA system in helping Iowa Head Start grantees to improve results on four key program performance indicators (medical screening, dental screening, teacher credentials, enrollment) and other federal priorities (e.g., fatherhood, literacy, welfare reform, prevention, healthy marriage, faith-based/community initiatives and positive youth development)

literacy, welfare reform, prevention, healthy marriage, faith-based/community initiatives and positive youth development)		
FY06 Action Plans MEDICAL SCREENING ◆ Implement the Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Care Institute training program to Iowa.	Program Year 05-06 Accomplishments MEDICAL SCREENING ◆ Anticipated funding for this effort did not materialize.	
DENTAL ◆ Complete the work on Healthy Smiles initiative. ◆ Continue to convene and organize work of the HS/EHS Oral Health Work Group. ◆ Begin work on adopt-a-classroom strategy.	DENTAL ◆ The Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Work Group met regularly during the year and moved forward on a new action plan that includes these projects: - Improving linkages through education, promotion and collaboration between Head Start and Hawk-I; Head Start and Medicaid (Title XIX); and with MCH agencies. The group developed new protocol and guidance sheets covering general vs. direct supervision. - Sustaining Healthy Smiles Initiative. Completed the first year and secured funding for another year of expansion. During the first year, thirteen co-trainers conducted 8	

DENTAL (continued)

orientation sessions and 18 skill-building sessions. A total of 610 family workers were trained. These workers reached 1,373 families. A data system tracked changes in parent behavior and recorded strong and significant changes in 18 areas of oral health behaviors.

- <u>Targeting oral health professionals</u> to sit on Health Services Advisory Committees. All agencies now have health professionals.
- Promoting oral health issues to early childhood community in broad system work through Congress presentations and a new oral health brief.
- Increasing the number of Head Start children receiving fluoride varnishes. Surveyed all programs and determined which ones are not making fluoride varnish available to their children. Developed a plan to build local connections between Medicaid, MCH and Head Start to make varnishes available.
- Cooperating on a local design and implementation of a <u>xylitol outreach and utilization</u> experiment using a Head Start agency.
- ◆ The State Dental Director discouraged us from pursuing the "Adopt a Classroom" approach because it interfered with the more systemic change contemplated with I-Smiles. The Oral Health Work group agreed and the effort was dropped.
- ♦ Secured IHSA support for a new I-Smiles plan that will be part of the state's Medicaid plan. The I-Smiles proposal includes a plan to assure a dental home for all children on Medicaid and a higher reimbursement to dentist. It builds an oral health infrastructure to better serve Medicaid children, including those served through Head Start, WIC and MCH programs with screenings and arrangements for annual exams, and other care coordination between public health and private dental practices.

FATHERHOOD

 Work with T/TA System to rollout systems approach to fatherhood involvement

LITERACY

- ◆ Develop a ELL module for DE's Every Child Reads: 3-5 initiative; connect it to Head Start literacy efforts
- Offer more literacy networking/training

FATHERHOOD

 Worked with IHSA to arrange for a TA System training on fatherhood using a local Iowa resource.

LITERACY

Supported another year of Iowa Public Television's book club project. Two Head Start programs participated in 2005-06, serving approximately 17 parents and distributing 130 books. The decline in participants due to 6 programs dropping out of the program. Decline mainly due to funding constraints to cover staff time and other program priorities. Recruit-

 Support T/TA Network in implementing follow-up to parent literacy mentors as needed.

LITERACY (continued)

ment this year has meant seven Head Start programs will participate in 2006-07. Pre/post surveys reveal positive changes in reading behavior by parents including reading to children, talking about new words in the story, answering children's questions while reading, asking children questions about the story and using the IPTV Learning Triangle (combining reading activities with a children's TV program and a related activity), and watching TV with their child. The pre/post surveys also showed a decline in the amount of time spent watching TV and videos/DVDs!

- ♦ As more Head Start classrooms in Iowa wrestle with an increase in Spanish-speaking children, helped arrange for an IHSA-sponsored training on teaching in early childhood bilingual classrooms. Promoting capacity in the state to address early childhood bilingual needs is an important priority in the state.
- ♦ Analyzed use of new Every Child Reads (ECR) training materials a since its release in 2005. Of more than 550 participants in about 20 percent came from Head Start. At least three separate Head Start programs were involved in sponsoring or collaborating on the trainings. A new round of Every Child Reads training will be hosted by every AEA in Iowa beginning this fall through June 2007 thanks to a renewed commitment of support from the Iowa Department of Education. Additional funding from Empowerment Professional Development dollars will fund more trainings and follow-up activities with past trainees.
- ♦ Worked with IHSA to arrange for a TA System training on the Steps to Success materials.

WELFARE REFORM

WELFARE REFORM

- ♦ After the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released new regulations governing TANF in July 2006, Iowa HSSCO issued clarifications, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Human Services, about what services are supported by TANF.
- ♦ A new MOU was drafted (currently awaiting signatures) between the Iowa Departments of Human Services and Education that includes language about the importance of promoting Head Start to eligible children entering the foster care system.

OBJECTIVE TWO:

Collaborations between agencies which have as their vision improving the well-being of the lives of young children and their families at the State and local level are promoted by the Iowa Head Start-State Collaboration Office (HSSCO).

- 1. See Objective One, Desired Outcome 2 supports this objective.
- 2. Desired Outcome: Increased opportunities to access academic credit and professional development; and increased support to collaborations with 2 and 4-year institutions.

FY06 Action Plans

- ◆ Continue support for the work of the Iowa Early Care and Education Professional Development Project, especially in the area of articulation and using core competencies to plan staff professional development.
- ◆ Identify barriers to academic credit for Head Start staff and work with new partners to address them (this should support grantee performance indicators along the dimension of teacher credentials.)

Program Year 05-06 Accomplishments

- ◆ Provided active support throughout the year on both the large professional development system work group and on a smaller steering committee of this group.
- Released in collaboration with IHSA and the Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork a comprehensive listing of all early childhood higher education programs in Iowa.
- ♦ Issued clarifications about how Head Start teachers can convert an initial State of Iowa Iowa license into a standard teacher's license. Supervision issues have confused programs as the basis for addressing all eight required teaching standards.
- ♦ Spearheaded a collaborative effort that resulted in a one-day meeting in October to identify the necessary components of an early childhood professional development system: leadership, regulations, training, education, compensation, articulation, and evaluation. The event was facilitated by Sue Russell, from the national T.E.A.C.H. project.
- ♦ Developed a strategic plan for creating the system addressing the seven areas. Plan development involved more than 100 individuals. A smaller representative steering group has refined this work and created a strategic plan for system development implementation.
- Participated in spending priorities with new state investment of \$2.2 million dollars in early childhood professional development, including supporting specific projects that address training gaps in the field as well as a broader system development effort.
- ♦ Supported the Early Childhood Alliance, a group of community college early childhood faculty, in a gathering to support their work on developing common core of courses associated with their early childhood degrees. They are drafting the expected content for each of the courses. These are essential steps toward helping create commonality among community colleges.

Professional Development (continued)

♦ Served as chair of Iowa's T.E.A.C.H. Project. This project successfully completed its first self-study and was re-licensed. The project continues to provide needed scholarships, with the supply and demand growing. The project is also drafting two new models: a BA/BS proposal and one for part-time preschool teachers. Currently about 6 Head Start employees are T.E.A.C.H. recipients. Des Moines Area Community College has developed a system in which CDA classes articulate directly into AA degrees, something to be explored across the state. When the organization that held its license dissolved, Iowa HSSCO took a leadership role in moving Iowa AEYC to be the new license-holder.

OBJECTIVE THREE:

The development of a comprehensive, compelling and unifying vision for all Iowa's young children and their families is supported by the Iowa Head Start Collaboration Office.

1. **Desired Outcome:** Support the Work of the Early Childhood Iowa "stakeholders" in comprehensive system development with an emphasis on increasing access to comprehensive services for young children (health, education, family support, child care).

FY06 Action Plans

- Continue to participate and support the system development work of the ECI stakeholders.
- Provide more participation by families of low income.
- ♦ Emphasize access to comprehensive services by families of low income.

Program Year 05-06 Accomplishments

- ◆ Participated and supported system development work through Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), serving on its co-chair steering committee, co-chairing the Governance, Planning and Administration Component Group, serving on the Resources and Funding and Professional Development component group and attending quarterly meetings of the larger stakeholder group.
- Encouraged and ensured Head Start representation on each of ECI's six component groups and attendance at quarterly stakeholder meetings.
- ♦ Continued to support the Iowa Early Care, Heath and Education Congress. The 2005 Congress featured keynoters Lynn Sharon Kagan and W. Steven Barnett. Nearly 400 early childhood specialists, advocates and stakeholders gathered for the event including representatives from 4 Head Start programs. At least three sessions featured Head Start programs and services, showcasing the unique value of Head Start in addressing state issues. Extensive work has occurred in planning for the November 2006 Congress.
- Participated in the Early Childhood Comprehensive Leadership group, a legislatively directed effort to

Systems Development Work (continued)

begin conversations about stronger collaboration among various government-required early childhood councils and boards. The HSSCO Management team was among those invited to participate. Iowa HSSCO participated both as chair of the FaDSS committee and staff to the HSSCO Management Team. The group analyzed group functions and purposes, made recommendations on avenues for future cooperation and encourage state support for state system development work. Recommended goals included:

- 1. Increase coordination between early childhood committees and councils to reduce or eliminate bureaucratic duplication and consolidate responsibilities as appropriate.
- Increase the efficiency of working with federally mandated bodies.
- Integrate service and service quality function to achieve improved results
- 4. Integrate state-administered funding streams directed to community-based efforts.
- ♦ System development work benefited from the support of Governor Tom Vilsack's comprehensive legislative package dubbed "Iowa Strong Start." The package included many proposals that mirrored strategies in the ECI strategic plan. The effort represented a new degree of cooperation and alignment among early childhood constituency groups. Specifically, Strong Start includes the following initiatives, many which will provide direct benefit for Head Start children:
 - New Preschool Initiative: to provide funding to increase access by Iowa four year-olds to a quality preschool experience.
 - Statewide Family Support and Parent Education
 Coordination: to improve the coordination of a variety of family and parent support efforts.
 - Iowa Access to Baby and Child Dentistry: to increase the capacity of communities to provide preventive oral health services, increase access to oral health services and improve the oral health status of low income children.
 - Healthy Mental Development: to elevate the social and emotional well-being of young children as an integral part of a child's healthy mental developing in an early care, health and education system.
 - Quality Rating System: to expand critical infrastructure, technical assistance and provider support to increase the participatin in and the integrity of Iowa's new Quality Rating System.
 - Iowa Community Empowerment: to continue financial support for Community Empowerment to continue technical assistance to communities and to the system development work of Early Childhood Iowa.

Systems Development Work (continued)

- Shared Visions: continued funding for Shared Visions, Iowa's state-funded preschools.
- ◆ Represented Iowa at the "Building Connections" conference on early childhood system building in Minneapolis, Minn. on June 27-29.
- ♦ ECI has moved forward on implementing its strategic plan, integrated ECI work with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant. At the fall meeting, the broad stakeholder group selected nine goals for priority attention, at least one in each result area:
 - Healthy Children

Goal 1: Increase access to and utilization of social, emotional and mental health services

Goal 5: Increase the number of children with health care coverage

Children Ready to Succeed in School

Goal 1: Increase level of performance of children in the areas of learning, communication, movement, self-help, social skills, and emotional health

Secure & Nurturing Families

Goal 2:Increase positive relationships between child and parents

Goal 4:Increase effective opportunities to learn about child development and parenting skills

Safe & Supportive Communities

Goal 1: Increase the safety of young children and families in their communities

Goal 4: Increase community investment in the early care, health and education system

- Secure & Nurturing Early Care & Education Environments

Goal 1: Increase the number of high quality early care and education environments for all children

Goal 2: Increase parent and community demand for quality in early care and education environments